wherein R_2 and R_3 are independently selected from: H, R, OH, OR, =O, =CH-R, $=CH_2$, CH_2-CO_2 R, CH_2-CO_2H, CH_2-SO_2R, O-SO_2R, CO_2R, COR and CN, and there is optionally a double bond between C1 and C2 or C2 and C3;

R_6, R_7, R_8 and R_9 are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, nitro, amino, Me_3Sn; or R_7 and R_8 together form a group -O-$(CH_2)_p$-O-, where p is 1 or 2;

where R is a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, whereof the alkyl group optionally contains one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, which may form part of a conjugated system, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms; and is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups, and optionally contains one or more hetero atoms, which may form part of, or be, a functional group; except that either:

A' Cont.

(i) one or more of R_2, R_3, R_6, R_7, and R_8 are independently X-Y-A-, where X is selected from -COZ', NHZ, SH, or OH, where Z is either H or a nitrogen protecting group, Z' is either OH or an acid protecting group, Y is a divalent group such that HY = R, and A is O, S, NH, or a single bond; or

(ii) one or more of R_2, R_3, R_6, R_7, and R_8 are independently H-$(T)_n$-X'-Y-A-

where X' is CO, NH, S or O; Y is a divalent group such that HY = R; A is O, S, NH or a single bond, T is a combinatorial unit, and n is a positive integer.

18. (Amended.) A method of therapy comprising administering a compound of formula II as defined in claim 17.

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1-16 and 20-26 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 17-19 stand objected to as containing non-elected subject matter. Claims 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 over Thurston et al., Chemical Communications, 563-565 (1996). Claim 17 has been amended to